

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for preventing or reducing the clogging of filtration membranes used in the treatment of effluents comprising the steps of: providing a source of effluent; adding a biological floc having an average dry matter concentration lower than or equal to 2 g/l, to the effluent for filtration, intended for trapping the molecules and particles which clog filtration membranes, the biological floc issuing upstream of the membrane filtration installation, or from a distinct treatment station; and subjecting the combined material to a filtration membrane.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the effluents consist of wastewater.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said biological floc consists of biological sludge issuing upstream of the membrane filtration installation.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the biological floc consists of biological sludge issuing upstream of a distinct treatment station.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the sludge is injected into physicochemical potabilization stations for producing drinking water from freshwater, brackish water or seawater.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the biological floc is introduced directly into the filtration tank.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the biological floc is introduced into the effluent for filtration, before the filtration membrane.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the biological floc is fed continuously.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the biological floc is fed in batches.